Listed below are some links to the various research that has been done on the 'megapolitan' areas and 'mega-regions' concepts.

Here's the full report behind 2008 map. It is from a research seminar in California in 2007 that was sponsored by America 2050, the Regional Plan Association of NY, NJ, and CT, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy:

http://www.rpa.org/pdf/temp/America%202050%20Website/Healdsburg_Full_Report_2007.pdf

The map mentioned in the meeting that President Bardo at WSU has used is from 2005 and was done by Professor Lang when he was at the Virginia Tech Metropolitan Institute and is referenced as updated by the 2007 map, including removing Wichita and Kansas City: http://www.america2050.org/pdf/beyondmegalopolislang.pdf

The Northern Flyer Alliance indicates this is because of the lack of rail service connecting Wichita and KC with the rest of the mega-regions:

http://www.slideshare.net/deborahfischerstout/presentation-to-kcmo#btnNext

The research has continued and has resulted in a recent academic book called by Megapolitan America written by the Professor Lang, now at UNLV, and Professor Nelson at the University of Utah:

http://www.planning.org/apastore/meet/2011/megapolitan.htm

http://www.theatlanticcities.com/jobs-and-economy/2012/01/emerging-and-interconnected-megapolitan-regions/847/

http://places.designobserver.com/feature/megapolitan-america/30648/